

# BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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VOLUME VI

41



1915-D Half Dollar

With Gas Inclusions  
(COURTESY of HARRY MILLER)

# Contents

❖ On The Cover... 1915-D Half Dollar .....	3
❖ BCCS President's Message .....	4
❖ From The Editor .....	5
❖ Classified Ads For Members .....	5
❖ Pedigree It's A Dog Or Cat Thing ... by Phil Carrigan .....	7
❖ The One That Got Away ... by Greg Smith.....	8
❖ Aspects of Rare Coin Collecting ... by Rick Snow .....	10
❖ The Coin Show: Prescription for Fun ... by Steve Epstein ....	12
❖ Oddities & Varieties .....	15
❖ Treasury Report .....	16
❖ Message From The Secretary/Treasurer.....	17
❖ Searching For Barber Dime Varieties ... by Terry Searcy ....	18
❖ More On Die Cracks ... by Paul Reuter .....	20
❖ The Wandering Mint Marks of Early Barber Quarters ... by Jack White .....	24
❖ Mint Mark Position Of 1898-O Dime ... by Tracy Witt.....	25
❖ Three New Barber Varieties ... by Alex A. Pancheco .....	26

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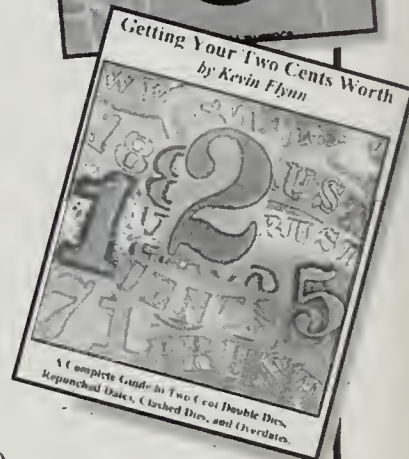
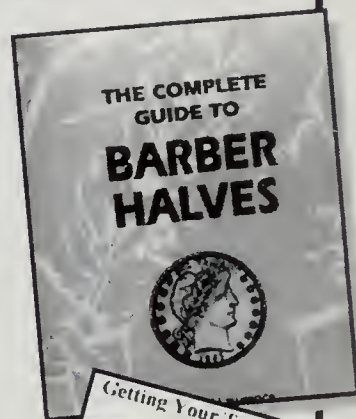
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JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

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### OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....President  
David Lawrence .....Editor, BCCS Journal  
Paul Reuter.....Secretary/Treasurer  
John Feigenbaum .....Typesetting/Layout, BCCS Journal

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### ON THE COVER

This highly unusual Barber Half Dollar appeared at a recent St. Louis show and was purchased by Harry Miller (Miller's Mint). It has a large elongated gas inclusion at 10:00 and a bunch of smaller bubbles at the date to star 12. The coin was shown to Randy Campbell of ANACS and he opined that it was genuine. Said ANACS had seen something similar in Morgan dollars, but not previously in Barbers. By coincidence I obtained a 1903-S quarter with some similar bubbles a little while later. (*Editor*)

## We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

David Lawrence  
C/O B.C.C.S. Article Submission  
6095 Indian River Road, Suite 204  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464



## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's great to start a new year with our Society in good health and growing. Paul, Dave and I are very pleased with the pace of renewals - more than 220 so far! We encourage any member who has procrastinated writing a check or just let this fall by the wayside, to please act now. We don't want to lose you as a member. We plan on growing from the base we achieved last year and this means keeping all the valued members into 1995.

Along with the renewals Paul Reuter received were 32 survey responses. Both of us were surprised at the length of time our members have been collecting: many individuals for 20, 30 or even 40 years. I suppose one could be concerned about the future and the young collector but we'll leave this for another day. A bit of reflection on this reveals individuals who have collected for 20 or more years are seasoned numismatists, they likely have matured and settled on a series they know and appreciate. Finally, these individuals join a specialized group such as BCCS. I feel a sense of pride in knowing the depth of numismatic experience of our membership.

The following table summarizes the survey data received using the range of overall responses and the most frequent response:

Question	Range of Responses	Most Frequent
No. of yrs. Collecting	4 to 46	about 30
Series Collected	everything from colonials, Canadian, Russian	Barbers, with 25c in a small lead
(Note: no one mentioned collecting Morgan or Peace Dollars!)		
No. of Shows Attending, Local	0 to 40	about 4
No. of Shows Attending, National	0 to 5	0
Organizations	local — 50% none national — ANA 14 responses specialty LSCC 11 responses JRCS 6 responses	— — —
Publications Read	Coin World—26 responses Numismatic News—16 responses	

Surveys also contained many suggestions for future articles; we'll discuss these in the next issue. One area deserving our attention is attendance at large, usually national, coin shows. This certainly can be expensive and may be unfamiliar to some collectors. A large show offers an educational opportunity, the chance to network with collectors of like interests and a firsthand look at many coins from multiple dealers' stock. We will increase The BCCS presence at regional shows such as the New Jersey Garden State Show. Our next regional appearance will be in Milwaukee at the Central States Numismatic Society, April 27-30. We will have a Society meeting on Saturday at 9:30AM. As a special treat, Paul Reuter will be there along with Dave Lawrence and your president. (We've never appeared on the same stage before!) Milwaukee is a nice city that is not too expensive; Central States is one of the best regional shows. I hope to see many of you there.

One final note: don't miss the February issue of the ANA journal, The Numismatist. On the cover you'll find a dazzling Barber quarter; inside is a neat article on Charles Barber written by David Ganz, ANA President. If you can't locate a copy of this, send me a stamped and addressed envelope, I'll send you a photocopy.

Numismatics regards,  
Phil Carrigan

(Editor's Note — Write Phil c/o The BCCS Journal in Virginia Beach)

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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1994 was a good year for the Society's journal. Once we got back on our feet we received and published some very interesting articles by members. I particularly liked Doug Veal's analysis of Barber metal detector finds. Some of you may have a different favorite — but the point is the journal, and the society, are only as strong and interesting as the members make it. Please keep your contributions coming! With this issue we are off to a strong start. The deadline for the next issue is June 1st. I know we have a lot of members with interesting stories to tell and that a lot of you are studying mint mark and/or date positions much more carefully than I. Most of your contributions will make their way into the "Complete Guide" series as new editions are published, so please write something up and send it in.



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## THE IDAHO 1901-S QUARTER

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*by David Lawrence*

About 6 months ago I received a call from a women in Idaho who said she had picked up a 1901-S quarter uncovered by a bailing machine. She said it had a scratch, but wasn't too bad and a local dealer told her it graded XF. She asked me what it was worth. I told her I couldn't say without seeing it and suggested she send it via registered mail. To my surprise, she called back and subsequently did ship the coin. When I received it, I noted large and severe cuts on both sides — but it did technically grade close to XF. Not knowing if anyone would put such a coin in their collection I offered \$500. And... she declined; thought it was worth much more. Have any of you been offered this coin? I'd be curious.



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## CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS

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Reach 250+ collectors who are serious about Barbers! Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. Rates are \$4 per ad (over 4 lines add 50¢ per line). Send with check to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23464.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

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## PEDIGREE - IT'S A DOG OR CAT THING (?)

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by Phil Carrigan, NLG

Not to worry, this article is not misplaced here instead of appearing in Cat Fancy or its equivalent. The concept of pedigree applies equally to coins as it may to animals. Often, if one thinks of a pedigreed coin it may only apply to hearing of the Idler 1804 Dollar or the McDermott 1913 Liberty 5c piece. Who is charged with keeping the data on only these ultra famous coins and who might limit such 'name' information to only a few top rarities?

This pedigree issue came to mind last fall when I examined the Heritage October Long Beach Auction catalog. Several great Barber dimes appeared early in the sale and received expert cataloging by Mark Van Winkle, Chief Cataloger for Heritage and a BCCS member. One noteworthy coin was described as follows:

*PCGS 1909-S MS 66. An rare, high grade specimen of a very elusive date in any uncirculated grade. the current PCGS reporting data shows only 21 pieces have been certified in all mint state categories, this lot being one of the 3 MS 66s, with none higher (8/94). It has some medium toning in several colorful shades, and the strike is exceptionally strong for the issue. There are no abrasions or defects worthy of mention. Ex: Norweb Collection (Bowers & Merena, 10/87), lot 629, flip accompanies.*

This date is described by Dave Lawrence as very scarce and tough to find in Fine or above. Among the rare-date, high grade dimes offered by Heritage, this coin was the only example with any information concerning its previous owners and history, or, precisely, its pedigree. Obviously, the owner(s) up to this sale considered this coin to be special beginning with its grade but also in tracing its origin to the Norweb Collection. This is evidenced in the notation "flip accompanies" indicating the documentation was present linking the coin to the Bowers sale.

I wondered what the 1987 Bowers Norweb Sale of this coin contained for a description. I was able to consult my meager library of a zillion auction catalogs to find the following:

*1909-S MS-65. Attractive light golden and blue toning. One of the scarcer San Francisco Mint issues of the year. Obtained by Albert Holden directly from the New Orleans Mint in 1909.*

Well, we find there is a bit of grade inflation over time (or, one can decide the Bowers description was conservative). Additionally, we encounter additional pedigree information although the reference to the New Orleans Mint is questionable. For those who wonder about economic issues, the hammer price at the Heritage Sale was \$2800 while the price in 1987 at Bowers was \$3000. (My comment on the price aspect: Who cares!)

The point of all the above is to suggest this beautiful and scarce coin has enhanced appeal due to its pedigree. This may not be an added factor to all buyers but will attract certain individuals. One lesson here is that of maintaining such information in purchase records. Maybe anyone would preserve the ties to the Norweb Collection (in this case the flip in the holder). What about the individual who purchased a coin in 1956 from a young dealer in Pennsylvania named David Bowers, would it be worth preserving sales information for this transaction? Careful record keeping will pay both short- and long-term dividends. Consider implementing such a system or adding this date when recording a new purchase.



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## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

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*by Greg Smith*

Remember the coin that made you a Barber collector? I do. It was just as tensions were building in the desert of the Middle East. Iraq had invaded Kuwait, the stock market plunged. Everyone was talking about war, while President Bush rattled the proverbial saber.

I had a chunk of money that had just come back from a private loan and I decided to buy some gold. It wasn't the first time I'd ventured into the gold market, and this lesson didn't come any cheaper than the first. All I can say good about the most recent plunge was that it brought me into coin collecting, as I'd decided to buy bullion instead of paper. I shopped a little by phone, and finally went into an "investment" coin shop that had promised the best deal on American Eagles. The slick (slippery?) salesman reinforced my decision to buy bullion and made quite a production out of displaying the gold eagles from the mint tubes they were stored in. As he flashed the yellow beauties under the inspection light I was distracted time after time by a glimmering silver coin in his display case. A babe in the woods, I asked about "it".

At the time it was a curious piece. I recall wondering aloud if was an American coin. As he placed the slab in my hand he turned it over so I could see the eagle and legend "United States of America Quarter Dollar". I regret that this particular dealer wasn't just a little more collector and little less shark, for he was very knowledgeable, an excellent grader, and had a good eye (as I found out as I became more involved with collecting) and talent for acquiring undergraded coins. He justified the encapsulation. "Never buy a coin like this that isn't slabbed" he advised. Slabbed? Coin like what? I asked what the PR66 meant. I'd already figured out the denomination and date on the label. He dutifully explained the difference between a proof and mint state coin, taking a few other slabs from his cases to show me the obvious variance between the gleaming cameo proof quarter, and the sheen of lustrous, though comparatively dull mint state coins. "What's the matter with that one?" I asked ignorantly as he flashed a rainbow toned Morgan under the halogen beam. His patience never wavered, and as I look back his love for coins was only outweighed by his love of money.

I spent hours in his store that day, looking at MS and DMPL 65, 66, and 67 Morgans. He showed me a 1849 "no L" gold dollar, an MS62 1813 quarter eagle (which I bought that day and got slaughtered on 4 years later), he sold me on an 1881 MS67 Morgan, and showed me the value of a variety of other numismatic coins, but somehow he kept steering me away from the 1897 Proof 66 Barber quarter that had caught my eye. He sold me the bullion I came for, and quite a few other premium coins I never knew I wanted, and now know I didn't want! But the memory of that Barber proof ...



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Over the course of the next six months, nine months, year or two, gold steadily migrated south. Sheiks were selling it by the truck full, no doubt hauling it to market in abandoned Iraqi tanks. The Soviet Union couldn't buy Pepsi or Big Macs fast enough with rubles so they started using kilos of gold. I thought \$340 was a pretty good place to get rid of it, and the hype of the "buys of the century" in the numismatic market were good to let a few down-side gold dollars keep me out of the action. Mr. Investment Coin Dealer reluctantly let me trade my eagles back in a few at a time to get seriously into the coin market. Every trip I drooled on the Proof Barber Quarter, every trip he'd tell me how he was buried in it, had paid too much; how it wasn't worth what he had to get for it, then load me up with more "rare" but unrelated coins, or some generic Morgans or Saints. If ignorance is bliss, I was the most blissfully ignorant losingest sap that ever came down the yellow brick road. But I wanted that Quarter.

I knew it was a Barber. So, I bought a Coin World. Then I bought Dave Lawrence's Barber Quarter book, then the Dime book (and got on his mailing list). Then I found Teletrade, and went to the library, and started visiting different coin stores ... in different cities and states. And I went to shows. I read book after book. subscribed to The Greysheet and The Bluesheet, bought the One Minute Coin Expert, High Profits from Rare Coin Investments (HA!), and The Coin Collectors Survival Guide ... then I went back to "my" coin dealer.

I wanted Barbers.

I hooked him, as much as I was hooked, by telling him I wanted to make a "complete" (I'll prove I'm serious ... "except the '94-S") set of MS62 and better dimes. He got on the computer and looked, he took my want list to shows. I talked to him several times a week, and dropped off an eagle or two for an MS dime nearly as often. He knew what I really wanted now, and he knew I wasn't a dumb rookie anymore the first time I asked him for a population report and a condition census on the same trip into his shop. Suddenly he became a mentor. But he still wouldn't sell me that primo cameo he locked up in his safe every night. It seemed we'd haggled over every coin in his shop, figuring parlays and short term sales to help build my dime collection, but that coin wasn't for sale.

THAT coin. As many times as I held it, it was never mine. I've been to dozens of shows since "my" dealer suddenly went out of business (probably moved to Mexico with the profits on my gold transactions). I've seen beautiful Proof 66 and 67's a few 68's. White and champagne, and attractively toned ... each a delight to behold ... I even put together a nice matched set of Proof 64 "94's and am within 7 dates (92-S, 93-O, 96-S, 97-S, 98-S, and 1900-O [no 94-S or 05 micro-O]) of completing my dime set. But oh, THAT coin. the one that got away!



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## ASPECTS OF RARE COIN COLLECTING

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by Rick Snow, BCCS

*Note from Phil Carrigan: This article appeared in the Eagle Eye Rare Coins December 1994 Pricelist. Dealer Rick Snow's thoughts are reprinted here with permission, modified for the BCCS audience.*

Why are you interested in rare coins? Do you love the thrill of finding that perfect coin to fill that open space in your collection? Do you find the time spent looking at your acquisitions to be one of your more enjoyable times of the day. Do you enjoy showing off your coins, feeling extremely proud when you exhibit your coins to the "Ooos" and "Ahhs" of your fellow collectors? Do you search out any information related to your area of interest? Coin collecting, if done right, can be one of life's most rewarding adventures.

### **Rule Number 1 — Learn what a nice coin looks like.**

Before there was certified encapsulated grading the collector needed to find a dealer they could trust to find the choice example for their collection. The collector needed to develop a relationship with that dealer so that his interest could be well served. The relationship between the dealer and the collector was one of mutual respect and trust. With the advent of certified grading people started to believe that one grade meant one value! Dealers started to list sight-unseen buy and sell prices. Wall Street firms were sold on the misconception that rare coins can be offered in a neat orderly market like stocks based solely on the grade on the certified holder. In effect, the role of the dealer as it had been known was over. The experience of years of looking at coins could be purchased with a submission fee. New dealers sprung up that had no idea how to grade a coin without the help of the certified holder. It was a hobby reborn, free of worry, or so we were told.

The grading services, to their credit, started out with grading standards tougher than the general market. This made the certified coin king. Only the best coins got the lofty MS-65 grade. Problem coins were shut out of the system. Since that time the best grading services have been fairly consistent in their grading, but over time there has been a steady infiltration of substandard and otherwise ugly coins. The best coins, which may have been graded too strictly to begin with, got regraded into higher grades. Any other nice pieces get put away in the best collections. The majority of the remaining coins on the market are either ugly, overgraded, or otherwise problem coins. I call this phenomena "Grading Creep". In the first few years this was not a problem. But as time went by grading creep became more and more evident. The grading services, also to their credit, have been battling this problem since it began. They have bought back problem coins off the market to keep this problem from ruining the certified grading idea.

Now the collector is king again, and the quality factor is being felt very strongly in the market. The uglies get tossed from dealer to hapless dealer like a hot potato, while the beauties come into and out of the market very quickly. There are too many differences between any two coins to lump them all into a firm grade = price standard.

### **Rule Number 2 — Understand the values of the coins.**

You must realize the difference between a cheap ugly coin and a fairly priced attractive coin. Collectors are willing to pay for what they get in terms of eye appeal and quality. The choice pieces bring the best prices and are usually the first to sell. The average pieces get sold at the commercial ask price or thereabouts, and the scudsy examples get sold at a great discount.

It is because of this difference in quality between like grade coins that your dealer is now as important, or even more important to your goal than ever before. If your dealer is con-



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stantly saying “You can’t find it any cheaper than my coin” watch out! If he (or she) is saying “You won’t find a nicer coin for the money”, then buy.

### **Rule Number 3 — Get to know your dealer.**

Finding that right coin for your set takes a lot of skill. As most successful collectors know, you should get to know your dealer very well. You should tell him (or her) exactly what your goals are. If you hate spots on coins, tell him - No Spots. Send him a wantlist. If you have a budget, let him know that too. If you want to know the market outlook, ask him. If he performs well for you, reward him with additional business. If you have a problem with the dealer, tell him so. If he doesn’t fix the problem, go somewhere else. You are in control of your collection, and the dealer is there only because he can find what you want.

### **Rule Number 4 — Learn how to negotiate a deal.**

You owe it to yourself to get the best coin at the best price. There are many ways to do this. I will usually offer my best coins at the best price to my best customers. All they have to do is ask “what’s your best price?”. The best way to negotiate a lower price is to make it worthwhile for the dealer to give you some of his profits. If you buy a quantity of coins it is not out of the question to ask for and receive a discount. If you buy with any regularity from a certain dealer, perhaps he’ll give you a discount as a reward for being a steady buyer.

Making a counter offer is another way to get a better price. This is best done after you have looked at the coin. If you make an offer before seeing the coin and the dealer takes you up on it, there may be a problem in getting out of the deal if you don’t like the coin. Also, you will be in a better position to bargain when the coin is in your possession. Then the choice posed to the dealer is either a certain sale or getting the coin back in the mail.

So much for rules. Here are some ways to build a super collection:

I always recommend buying the tougher coins first. You will come across the common coins easily enough, and if you wait, you may not have to upgrade them later. If you jump in buying the common dates first, the collecting experience will be like climbing a mountain. If you start with the tougher coins, your experience will be more like a nice long hike.

If you need to upgrade a coin, try offering it to the dealer you’re buying the better coin from. You’ll probably get a better price than if you just sold it outright to just anybody.

Don’t buy a problem coin. “*There is no price too cheap for a problem coin!*”. Would you buy spoiled milk because it’s cheaper? Of course not. Coins have personalities and will talk to you. The nice coins in your collection say things like “I’m glad to be in your collection” and “I hope you keep me forever”, while the problem coins say things like “Hey, get me out of here so I can go back to living in the sewer.” and “Don’t I stick out like a sore thumb?” You’ll easily forget how cheap that problem coin was, but you’ll always see how ugly it is.

Keep focused on your goal. When I first started collecting coins, I would buy all sorts of random things; a Morgan Dollar here, a Buffalo Nickel there, a Bust Half here, and before I knew it, I didn’t have a collection, I had a mish-mosh (is that a word?) of different coins that were not related to anything except that they were all mine. Only when I learned to become focused in my goals did my endeavors pay off. If you jump around buying whatever, whenever, you’ll never complete a single collection.

I hope these ideas will help you put together your dream collection. My goal is the same as yours: Getting the right coins for your collection.





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## THE COIN SHOW: PRESCRIPTION TO FUN

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*by Steve Epstein*

Two years ago I had to pass on my BCCS responsibilities to devote more time to my family and job. My personal needs to attend.

Some of our readers may not as of yet had the opportunity to attend a major national show, such as FUN , ANA, or Long Beach. They are absolutely huge. An aerial view would demonstrate that fact. There are hundreds of dealers each behind a folding table, with each table measuring perhaps three by eight feet. On each table are the offerings neatly displayed in glass cases illuminated from above by high intensity lamps. The tables are aligned in rows, with about forty to fifty to a row along two sides separated by an aisle. There are usually ten or more rows. This is what awaits the attendee.

With so many dealers one can only imagine the incredible value of the coins concentrated in one location. You get that sense when you first enter the hallway of the convention center and begin the process that ultimately entitles you entry to the bourse through one narrow set of doorways.

There's a guard at that entrance and he or she will check the badge you secured earlier during the signing process at a special set of counters in the hallway leading to the bourse area.

When you first enter the bourse you can't help but be a little overwhelmed at the sheer size of the whole thing. You are also confronted with your first choice. Which way do you go? Do you simply enter a row at random, perhaps selecting the one closest to the entrance? Or do you start at one end going up and down each row until you've arrived at the opposite end of the ballroom?

You may also go directly to specific dealers whose location you pinpointed from the convention catalog you received when you completed the entry forms. Well, like anything else it depends on your mission.

When I go to a show I am there to locate specific material. Like many others, the coins I'm searching for are usually difficult to locate and sought out by others as well. So it becomes a competitive thing. If I know specific dealers are more likely to have my items I search them out first. With that accomplished, I can begin the lengthy process of going up and down each row to seek what I need from the other dealers at the show. I must repeat this process daily because dealers continually receive fresh material from other dealers at the show as well as from collectors like myself who attend the show.

When I first got into the hobby my sole source of coin acquisition was through mail order. Although it worked to my satisfaction, I found myself oftentimes less than satisfied with the purchase I had made. It usually came down to a difference of opinion between the dealer and myself as to the condition and grade of the coin purchased. Most dealers honored their advertised policy of refunds, but there was still the cost and effort involved on the return. Then, on occasion, I would get the dealer who would become my worst nightmare.

When I started going to shows I knew what I was buying before I purchased it and could secure more coins at one show on a pretty much hassle free basis than I could through months of mail order. I was also able to network with dealers and after awhile could order from some through the mail with a great degree of confidence. I also developed some lasting friendships with a real nice bunch of guys. I did of course get to see first hand dealers whose grading and pricing practices were a reflection of the lack of regulation in the industry of

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numismatics. Ironically, their personalities typically followed their less than scrupulous business practices and they weren't people with whom I'd want to have any relationship.

Once I began going to shows my collection itself developed personality. There before me was a coin collectors dream. Hundreds of thousands of coins from all series, all conditions, all dates, and all prices were in one location for me to view. I was able for the first time to sense the "collectability" of a series from both an affordability and availability perspective. I settled on Barbers. I loved the design, simple yet so elegant and relatively easy to grade. There were enough around to keep prices in line with demand, and there were dealers specializing in the series who were very helpful in sharing their knowledge about the series. And, as I was to discover later, there were enough interesting varieties to keep me intrigued for many years to come.

I bought my first Barber from Dave Lawrence, and my second and third, etc. Dave was instrumental in getting me started. Not only was he very knowledgeable about Barbers, but he knew the "look" of the coins I wanted and I was able to develop a mail order relationship with him that rarely saw a coin returned. I also always felt he was looking out for my interests in making sure I never got stuck with a "dog". When Dave's son John entered the business I instantly had another dealer with whom I could trust my purchases. Fortunately for me, as my collecting interests blossomed so did my relationship with other dealers in whom I could have the same trust. There was Chris Napolitano, a man of impeccable integrity and great eye for wonderful investment quality coins. There were also the industry minions such as Dave Bowers, Jack Beymer and others. Let me also not forget Norm Talbert from Great Lakes coins. Not only is he a dealer who always stocked accurately graded quality coins, but he always had time to offer a warm smile and talk passionately about the Cleveland Browns, a particular passion of mine as well.

One of the more often debated topics in the hobby is whether or not to "read the book first". In the case of Barbers there were no books when I got started. Today they exist for each denomination in the series and I find them invaluable in my collecting pursuits. I look at it this way. If I'm taking a trip I need a map to guide me to my destination with the minimum amount of hassle. I don't want to hit construction and I also want to know where the hotels are that offer the best value. It's no different with coins. It's one thing to locate the coin you want from a dealer you know will offer the best quality at the best price. But if you do a good job hunting your target purchases on the floor you'll oftentimes locate a coin you 'must' have from a dealer whose sign is hanging down from one side, has his coins authenticated from "Fred's Global Grading service", and wants to see five forms of identification along with pledging your first born as collateral before showing you the coin.

I cherish those experiences because I enjoy meeting new people and also expanding my sources for coins. Also I find that most dealers don't specialize in a series and therefore are a more likely source for a rare variety or better date. One is more likely to locate these 'finds' at the back of a box or under a pile of low grade common dates from these dealers than they are to be found prominently displayed in the case and marked as 'extremely rare'. In these cases, I don't trust my own eye to validate the coins' condition or value but will oftentimes ask to borrow the coin to show to a dealer with whom I have the relationship I described earlier. I find dealers usually accommodating in lending me coins, but on occasion I'll leave a coin of equal value as collateral.

If a dealer won't cooperate with me I will walk away or ask a dealer I know to go to the other dealers' table to perhaps purchase the coin on my behalf. In those instances I try to make sure I don't pay any more for the coin through the 'middleman' than I would had I purchased the coin on my own, recognizing I expect the dealer acting on my behalf to be com-



pensated for his trouble.

One of the more important tips to observe when attending a show is to take the time to go through a dealers' merchandise beyond what may be in plain view in his or her display case. Dealers bring to a show much more merchandise than they can ever display, and as previously mentioned, many may have just the coin you may need tucked away in the back of a box. You need a degree of patience but can narrow your search by asking the dealer to only show you the boxes that contain the series of which you are looking. Often times dealers have no idea of varieties and it pays to take the time to find them for yourself. I have discovered many 1905-o micro o dimes that way and can't begin to tell you how excited I become each time I find one. This is part of the phenomenon known as the "thrill of the hunt," and as long as I have this feeling I will keep going to these shows.

In previous articles I've discussed dealer/customer etiquette. I won't belabor it here but it is important to mention one aspect of it in the context of this article. Dealers go to shows to make a profit. While it's ok to pick their brains and just plain 'shoot the breeze', we should recognize their time and space is limited to their need to attract as many paying customers as they can. They can do it better when they're not distracted by idle chit chat and when there is also an empty chair at their table for others to sit down. It's basically a case of common sense judgment. Save your idle chatter or extended information gathering sessions for a time when its' like a ghost town on the bourse. This strategy is good for the collector too. For I can assure you it will take one the total show and then some to get to all the dealers and examine their merchandise. Many is the time a collector friend excitedly boasted of his 'find' to me, leaving me in dismay at the very fact it was just the coin I wanted but he got to that table before me.

It's time to draw this article to a close as they have just opened the bourse. As much as I enjoy communicating this information to you, we're still going after the same coins. So if I'm going to have the opportunity to boastfully show off my 'finds' to you, I'd better get going so I can beat you to the show. But there will be other shows. Will you be there?



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1901-S	25¢	Nice Good	obv. AG/FAIR REV.	600.
1906	25¢	Nice	proof	425.
1892-O	50¢	Semi-proof-like	AU+	425.
1904	50¢	Very choice	original AU	255.
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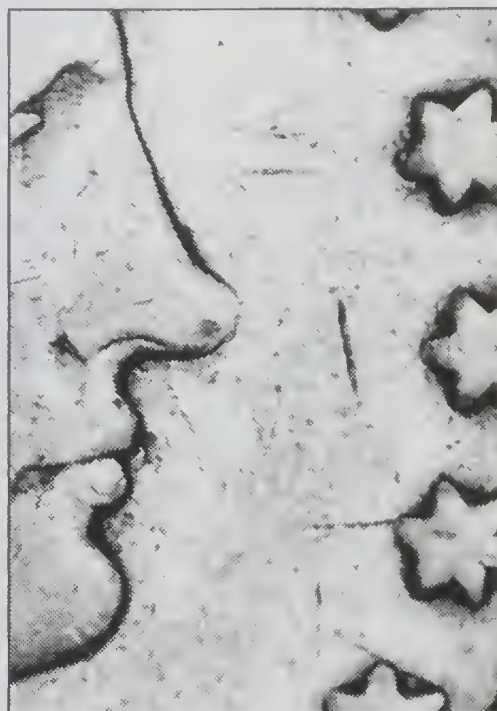


## ODDITIES & VARIETIES

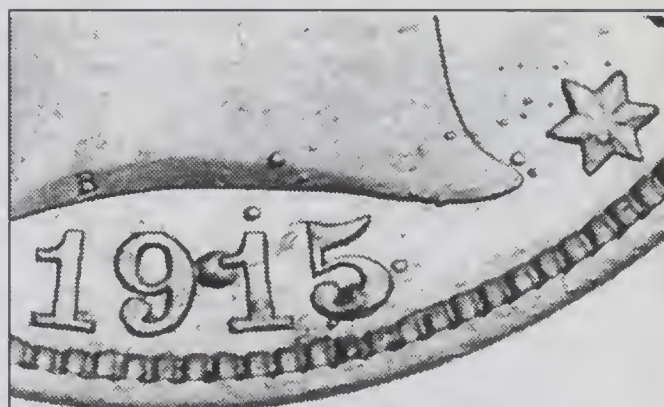
*from the Editor's Office*  
*(all photos by Tom Mulvany)*



1898-P DIME  
"BEARDED CHIN"  
(FROM VINCENT KING)



1909-S QUARTER  
"PINOCCHIO NOSE"  
(PROBABLY CAUSED BY A HIT TO THE  
NOSE WHILE THE COIN WAS IN HIGH  
GRADE).



ENLARGEMENTS OF THE 1915-D HALF DOLLAR ON THE COVER.  
NOTE LARGE GAS INCLUSION IN 'D' - PHOTO AT LEFT - AND MANY SMALL BUBBLES BY  
DATE AND STAR - PHOTO AT RIGHT.



## TREASURY REPORT

### TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1994

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1994	\$ 2,780.53
Receipts	Dues	\$ 2,922.50
	Advertising	1,135.80
	Commemorative Sales	376.65
	Back-issue Sales	360.00
	Donation	85.00
	Misc.	111.68
	Total	4,991.63
Funds Available		\$ 7,772.16
Expenditures	Journal Printing	\$ 3,425.00
	Postage	163.49
	Misc. Printing	100.00
	ANA Table and Dues	145.00
	Bank Charges	8.16
	Journal Production	2,150.00
	Misc.	38.82
	Total	\$ 3,880.47
Closing Balance	December 31, 1994	\$ 3,891.69
Signed: Paul Reuter, Treasurer		

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

With the renewal checks we have picked many address corrections and also some changes of addresses. If we missed any, please let me know as the Post Office won't forward mail indefinitely.

To the many who have included nice notes along with their checks, thank you. If there is anything I can do to help any member, please feel free to call on me. We hope to keep the Society running smoothly.

*Paul Reuter*



### Back Issues For Sale

Of the 20 BCCS Journals issued, 17 are still available at \$4.00 per issue. Lower pricing is charged for multiple issue orders. Typically \$14.00 for a set of 4 issues.

No longer in print are Vol. II, # 1 and #2 and Vol. V, \$1. A copying machine copy of these can be made up and they are priced at \$5.50 each. Make check payable to BCCS.

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# REMINDER

Dues for 1995 membership were due Jan. 1st. If you didn't send in your check yet, please do ASAP. We are trying to keep our membership strong. So far about 235 of the members have renewed.

If you haven't paid, this will be your last issue unless we receive a check.



## SEARCHING FOR BARBER DIME VARIETIES

*by Terry Searcy*

It is always interesting to search a box of Barbers, looking for nice coins, known varieties and that new discovery just waiting to be found. Over the years I have been fortunate enough to come across many new varieties, and would like to share some of my better finds. I discovered all the coins in this article except the 1896, that was discovered by Stan Kubacki of Detroit. I will discuss each coin, with its main features.



- 1.) 1896 - The 896 are doubled at the bottom of these 3 digits and clearly inside the "9" by the tail. The loop is clearly doubled south.



- 2.) 1897 - The 97 are doubled at bottom of the digits, with the 7 doubled the strongest.



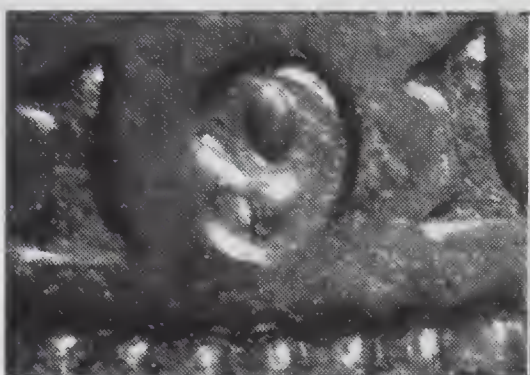
- 3.) 1901- The 9 is doubled to the west showing strongest on right side of inside top loop.



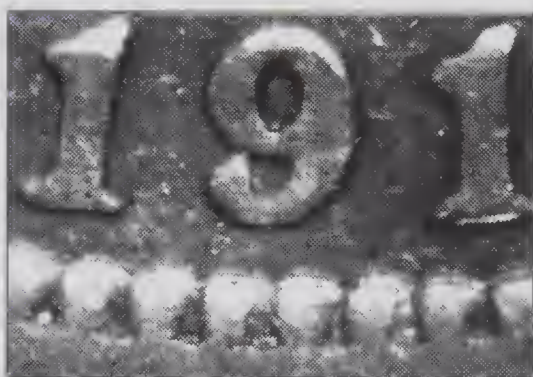
4.) 1901-O - All digits are doubled to the south, showing at bottoms, and inside and below top loops of the nine.



5.) 1906-D - This is one of my favorites, because it not only has a doubled date a 9 over 9 doubled south; it also has a doubled mint mark D over D south. A pretty neat coin. This doubled date also comes with plain "D".



6.) 1911-S - The 9 has a doubled tail or ball and loop, called a two tailed "9".



7.) 1914-D - This coin also has this two tailed "9" in the date.

As you can see, there are still many interesting coins, to find with some searching. So good luck and happy hunting. I would like to thank Chris Pilliod for his help, and for taking all the photos for this article.



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# MORE ON DIE CRACKS

*by Paul Reuter*

Some time ago I did a journal article on the subject of Die Cracks in Barber Quarters. Since then, others presented articles concerning cracks and Dave Lawrence ran a contest on Die Cracks in Barber Dimes. I would like to up-date my findings and present a few further ideas on the subject.

## QUARTERS

In my original article I mentioned finding cracks in approximately 25% of the coins inspected. Since then I have found cracks in 37% of the coins. I have also looked at another lot of AU to MS and found 29% of the coins showing at least one crack.

In Aggregate, cracks have been detected in 38 of 134 coins or 28% of the coins. While this is a rather small sample for drawing firm conclusions, it is interesting to compare the crack incidence to the mintage numbers of the four mints. Accordingly, while the San Francisco Mint struck about 8% of the Barber Quarters it accounts for 34% of the coins with cracks in my sample. The Denver Mint is right on average with 13% of the total mintage and 13% of the cracks. The New Orleans Mint showed 29% of the cracks while accounting for only 18% of the mintage and Philadelphia had the least incidence with 24% of the cracks, while having 60% of the mintage.

Looking at dates, it appears that the early issues are more likely to show up with cracks. Evidently, methods, die materials or quality control all improved during the 24 year life cycle of the Barber Quarter.

## DIMES

Inspired by Dave's contest, I carefully inspected a complete set of Barber Dimes. I couldn't find one example that exhibited a worthy Die Crack. In the summer 1992 journal, Scott Brockelman listed 11% or 8 coins out of 70 with breaks, a much lower percentage than I found in quarters.

## HALVES

Checking a complete set of 73 Barber Halves in VG or better I have found only 5 with cracks:

1895-S	Reverse:	Three distinct cracks noted
1908-O	Reverse:	Two cracks noted



---

1906-P	Reverse:	From A in dollar and on to edge
1908-D	Reverse:	From scroll at E to wing and on to and through T in United
1915-D	Obverse:	Front of neck to star 13

This is a 7% Die Crack occurrence, much lower than the others Barbers. It is also lower than the 16% occurrence in my previous study of capped Bust Halves. One can't help but conclude that for Barbers the quarters are far more likely to be found with Die Cracks.

### WHY THE DIE CRACKS?

A good deal of this is my own reasoning but I think that there are five main factors that cause Die Cracks: The number of times the die was used, the Planchet material, and the size of the coin are three. However, I think that the depth of the strike and the design of the coin are equally important. Gold being the softest of the coinage metals it would be the easiest on the dies. While copper and silver are harder, presumably dies used for striking gold or copper coins are more likely to wear out before they break. Dies for silver coinage wear out but also they are more prone to breaking. But why do they break and result in coins with Die Cracks?

Starting with the design, a look at the Barber dime shows an obverse with Miss Liberty and almost complete encirclement with Legend. In the quarters and halves, stars replace most of the Legend and while I can't measure it, I think the percentage of each coins' surface area made up by the figure and Legend is about the same. Or saying it another way, each denomination has about the same field area percentage. Now looking at the reverse of the dime we see some Legend ("one dime") and an almost continuous elevation of the wreath. Yet I would estimate that more than half of the reverse surface of the dime is field.

Now looking at the reverses of the quarter and half we see very busy designs. The reverses are jammed full of elevations from the field and for its size. The quarter must be one of the more complicated designs in modern U.S. coins. This being the case, the die that produces this complicated reverse has to be equally complicated with all manner of edges, ups and downs and recesses. My feeling is that the more complicated the design, the more metal that has to be moved to produce the coin and that in turn requires more pressure during the strike. And finally, the greater the pressure, the more likelihood of a die to crack after repeated blows.

Along with the design, the depth of the strike will probably have a similar effect on the die. To get some ideas I started my measuring the thickness both at the edge and the cheeks of a batch of Lincoln cents. At the rim the coins averaged out to about .060" with variations of .003" thicker or thinner. At the cheek they ran .054"

with plus or minus of about .002". I attempted to find out how thick Planchets were prior to striking but I was unsuccessful. In reading as to of how the Planchets are made and handled and in knowing that there must be some allowed tolerance in the strips form which they are made. I conclude that all Planchets are not of equal thickness, so rather than using Planchet thickness as a starting point, I decided that direct measurements of representative coins would be more useful.

TYPICAL MEASUREMENTS

	1994 Lincoln	1901 Dime	1909 Quarter	1915 Half
1. Thickness at the rim	.057	.049	.066	.081
2. Thickness over the face	.054	.043	.058	.071
3. Thickness field to field	.046	.031	.040	.057
4. Max to Min difference	.008	.012	.018	.014
5. Depth ratio	85%	72%	68%	80%

The above measurements were taken on AU or UNC coins and they are typical but should illustrate my point. 1 - is the thickness of the coin at the rim directly in front of Miss Liberty's or Lincoln's eyes. 2 - is the thickness of the coins taken at the cheek on the obverse and whatever happens to be on the reverse. 3 - is the thickness from obverse field to reverse field wherever I could find a spot. 4 - is the difference between 2 and 3 or the difference between the thickest and thinnest points on the interior of the coin. 5 - is the depth ratio or comparison of the thinnest to the thickest point. The smaller the percentage the greater the variance.

I ignored the thickness at the rim when comparing the thickest to thinnest measurements. Some of the rim thickness occurs during the upsetting operation on the Planchet and is there prior to striking. Just using the face thickness to field thickness comparisons I conclude that the Barber quarter has the most metal flow during striking. Along with its' complicated design and added pressure required for production, it is most likely to produce cracks in the dies. The half should be next because of it's simplicity.

Looking for Die Cracks can become an interesting side-line to collecting. With Barber quarters, the most common crack runs form the point of the neck to star 13 on the obverse. On the reverse, cracks around the Legend are the most common. You will also observe strikes during your observations. Recently I up-graded a standing quarter that had a rather noticeable crack running from the edge to the right wing. The new and better graded coin had the same crack only it was at least twice as advanced. A nice coincidence on a coin with over 1.5 million struck. Die Cracks can be intriguing.

REFERENCE: The Complete Coin Collector By Mort Reed.





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1896-S NGC MS66  
1903-S NGC MS65  
1905-S NGC MS63  
1906-D PCGS MS65 PQ  
1907-O NGC MS64  
1911 PCGS MS66  
1911-D NGC MS65  
1913 NGC PR65

## QUARTERS

1894 NGC MS65  
1894 PCGS PR67 PQ  
1905 NGC PR66 PQ  
1909 PCGS MS66  
1912 NGC PR66 PQ

## HALVES

1892-O NGC MS64  
1893 NGC PR67  
1895 NGC PR66  
1899 NGC PR66  
1902 NGC PR66  
1909 PCGS MS63  
1911 PCGS MS64  
1912-D PCGS MS63  
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## "THE WANDERING MINT MARKS OF EARLY BARBER QUARTERS"

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*by Jack White*

The discovery of the 1897-S quarter with the mint mark in the centered position has fascinated me since it was first reported a year after Lawrence's book came out in 1989. This rarity was unknown at the time of publication of the first edition of *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*. While browsing through a junk box at a small show I located an AG specimen - thinking I had a new discovery. Within weeks I had found it had been reported and known within the Barber fraternity. I now own four low grade examples, the best being a Very Good. How had this mint mark variety been unknown through the years?

Certainly the above mentioned book is largely responsible. The author, Dave Lawrence, stated that one of the reasons for writing the book was to identify these "wandering" mint marks of the 1890's. Many dealers had claimed "mint mark far right" as a scarce, often rare variety. Even the notable Walter Breen stated this in publication. Today, thanks in large part to the first edition of the *Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, most collectors now know better.

A quick review of mint mark positions for early Barber Quarter coinage is in order. The initial year of coinage, 1892, has both the "O" and "S" mint mark directly over the letter "R" in quarter. I suppose one could call it "mint mark left." 1893 resulted in the first year of the "wandering" mint mark. The "O" is both centered and located in the far right position. The "S" is centered and far right as well, but also a half effaced RPM exists. Truly a "wandering" mint mark! This latter variety is presently very rare. The years 1894 and 1895 follow the same pattern - both mint marks of each year one found centered and far right. Now comes 1896. In this year both mint marks are located in the centered position only. This holds true for 1897-O also. As previously stated, until recently the 1897-S was an exception. It was only known in the far right position. The centered position was to become the standard location for the remainder of the series.

From the above one can see that the "wandering" mint mark from the New Orleans mint stopped in 1895. From 1896 to 1909, the last year of mintage, the mint mark would "wander" no more. But what about San Francisco? Why was the mint mark both centered and to the far right in 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1897, but not in 1896?

The 1896-S is of course, one of the "big three" in the Barber Quarter series. Only two reverse dies are now known. Its mintage is significantly lower than any of the pre 1900 issues. However, the mintage of the 1897-S is closer to it than many people realize. In percentage terms it's approximately three times greater. But that number is only 354,000 in terms of actual coins struck, not a big difference. The San Francisco mint produced 6.6 million quarters from 1893-1897. Three percent of this total were 1896-S. Just 8% were 1897-S. The style of letter used, a rectangular shaped one, was used from the beginning of the series in 1892 and discontinued in 1897. A more rounded style was used beginning in 1898. What I'm leading to is this: Does the 1896-S quarter exist with the mint mark in the far right position, and if not,



why not? Remember that the 1897-S until recently, was known only in one position, the far right. It is now known in both. Why not the 1896-S? What does the coin pioneer do, if and when one does locate a 1896-S quarter with a far right mint mark? Would one automatically presume the coin to be counterfeit or a significant new discovery of a key date coin? Would such a coin be authenticated by ANACS as genuine? Would the financial risk (especially if a higher grade specimen should be located) be worth taking? These questions are the reason for my fascination with the discovery of the 1897-S centered mint mark quarter.

**Editor's Note** - *Because of it's low mintage, the San Francisco mint probably felt that two dies were all that was needed in 1896. I think it is just a coincidence that both were in the center. The next year I believe only 3 dies were used - consistent with its slightly higher, but still low mintage. Also, for reasons I'll explain in a later issue any 96-S with the mint mark far right is probably not genuine (altered).* ❖

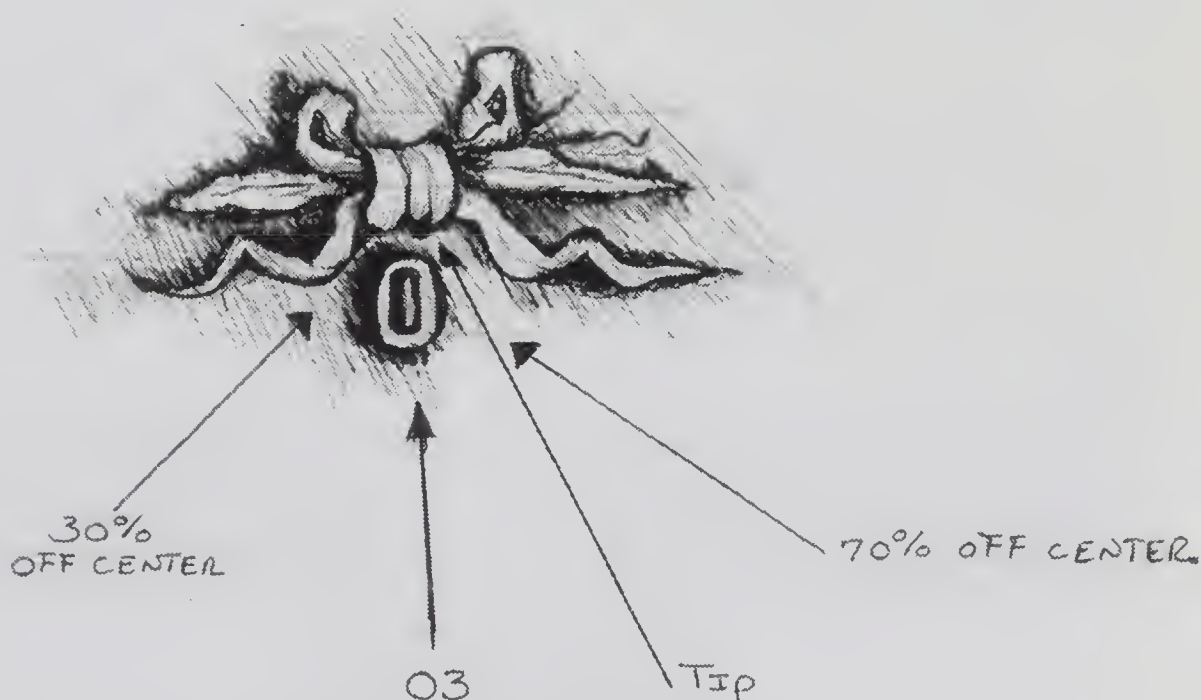
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## MINT MARK POSITION OF 1898-O DIME

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by Tracy Witt

I have a 1898-O dime (in fine) with a mint mark shifted to the west or left. Does anyone know of this variety? On the other dimes which I have of the date (3), the mint mark is centered. Does anyone have one like this? I am using the numbering system used in the Quarter Book (first ed).



The '03' lines up with tip of the second bow off center 70% left.

**Editor's Note** - *Please write to Tracy c/o this office. I have seen a lot of Barber dimes with the mint mark off center, but have not made a study of it.* ❖

## THREE NEW BARBER VARIETIES

*by Alex A. Pancho*  
*Photos by Kenneth R. Hill*

Some time back, as part of a search for 1898 Barber dimes with die chips, I found a nice BU coin with a die “spur” sticking out from Liberty’s chin. A major bonus was my discovery of an unusual feature to the date. Under magnification, the “9” in the date shows clear repunching to the southwest. Photo #1 shows this RPD as a curved spur with a rounded tip (ball or serif). There also appears to be the remnants of the back curve of the originally punched nine inside the current figure. Finally, a strong die chip connects the date to the lower bust. After looking at at least two dozen other dimes of the same date I have yet to find another coin from this same die, with or without visible RPD. Given that evidence of this repunching would fade with die use, the die chips present on this coin are probably due to something other than die fatigue, but that is for another day and another article.

Photo #2 shows a new dime variety for 1892. It is an RPD similar to No. 102 shown in Lawrence. However, unlike the photo of Joe Haney’s coin, the “2” in the date also seems to show repunching. That this is a different die can be seen by the alignment of the “1” in the date. For RPD #102, the one is centered approximately over the gap between two denticles. For the new RPD, the one is centered over a denticle, and the tip of the upper serif is farther to the west, overlapping the tip of Liberty’s bust.

The third photo shows a 1911-S half with a nicely repunched mintmark. The lowermost serif shows a clear and complete doubling. Also, doubling can be seen in the upper curve of the S. This may be the first RPD for this date; none were reported in the edition of Lawrence’s half book.

All of these varieties were located unattributed. There is still a lot more to be found out there in the Barber series, as many of us know. Luckily, the level of knowledge about Barber varieties seems to be much lower among the majority of the dealer and collector fraternity. Makes it more interesting for the rest of us!



PHOTO #1



PHOTO #2

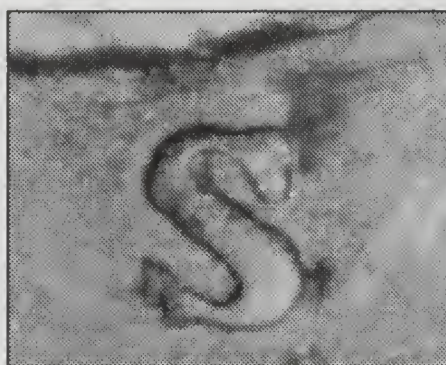


PHOTO #3



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